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STATUS OF THE AMERICAN BISON IN THE UNITED STATES AND ALASKA, 1939

Compiled in the Section of Wildlife Surveys
Division of Wildlife Research

On December 8, 1905, there assembled in the Lion House of the New York Zoological Society a group of 16 persons, all interested in the preservation of the American bison, which was then in grave danger of extinction. The resulting organization became known as the American Bison Society, and to its efforts more than to those of any other agency should credit be given for the preservation of the bison. Largely as a result of the Society's activities the National Bison Range was established under the administration of the Biological Survey on land formerly a part of the Flathead Indian Reservation, Mont., and was stocked on October 17, 1909, with 37 bison, all but one from a private herd at Kalispell, Mont. Several other bison refuges have been established since then.

For several years the American Bison Society published comprehensive censuses of the American bison. The last of these, the "Twentieth Census of Living American Bison as of January 1, 1934," in which ownership of the animals was indicated, was compiled by Martin S. Garretson, secretary of the society. The numbers and ownerships of both privately and publicly owned animals have changed considerably, since then, hence the need for the present compilation.

The 1939 count shows a total of 5,029 animals in the United States and Alaska, an increase of 579 over the 1934 estimate. No attempt was made to procure data from Canada or other countries. The owners in each State and Alaska are listed in the accompanying tabulation with the number of animals each had on hand as of June 1, 1939. In many instances the calf crop of the year is not included, complete figures not being available. Many animals are not accounted for in the records, possibly between 600 and 800, because their owners and their locations were not known. This is particularly the case in Texas, where it is believed that there are at least 400 bison not listed. Information on any herds not listed herein will be gratefully received by the Biological Survey.

A bibliography that includes the more important references on the American bison is appended.

Location and ownership	Males	Females	Calves	Total	State total
Alaska: Delta River Region: Alaska Game Commission	55	110	35	200	200
Arizona: House Rock Valley: State of Arizona.	15	80	0	95	95
California:					
Bakersfield: Kern County Park.	1	1	0	2	
Catalina Island: Wrigley Zoo	19	11	10	40	
Lathrop: W. L. Williamson.	2	2	0	4	
Sacramento: City Park.	2	3	1	6	
San Diego: Balboa Park	1	1	0	2	
San Francisco:					
Fleishacker Zoo.	2	1	2	5	
Golden Gate Park	9	6	1	16	
San Luis Obispo: W. R. Hearst.	9	5	1	15	90
Colorado:					
Colorado Springs: Cheyenne Mountain Museum and Zoological Society. . . .	4	3	1	8	
Denver:					
City Park.	3	5	2	10	
Genesee Park	3	20	11	34	
Martin Park.	14	18	9	41	
Padroni: Mrs. L. U. Sherwin.	5	26	13	44	
Pueblo: City Parks Zoo	1	4	1	6	143
District of Columbia: Washington: National Zoological Park	8	9	3	20	20
Florida: Jacksonville: Municipal Zoo . .	1	2	0	3	3
Georgia: Atlanta Zoo	1	2	1	4	4
Idaho:					
Boise: City Park Zoo	1	2	1	4	
Pocatello: Nixon Trust Estate.	1	3	1	5	
St. Anthony: R. L. Hammond	2	4	0	6	15
Illinois: Chicago: Lincoln Park Zoo. . .	2	5	1	8	8
Indiana:					
Evansville: Mesker Zoo	1	4	2	7	
La Fayette: Columbian Park Zoological Gardens.	1	0	0	1	
South Bend: Pottowatomie Park Zoo. . .	2	4	0	6	14
Iowa:					
Cedar Rapids: Beaver Park.	1	1	0	2	
Davenport: Fejervary Park.	1	6	1	8	10

Location and ownership	Males	Females	Calves	Total	State total
Kansas:					
Cassoday, Wilbur Countryman.	1	2	0	3	
Garden City:					
City Park.	1	1	1	3	
Scott County State Park.	4	11	2	17	
Independence: Riverside Park Zoo . . .	1	2	0	3	
Meade: Meade County State Park	1	1	0	2	
Pittsburg: Crawford County State Park.	1	1	0	2	
Pratt: Pratt Fish Hatchery	1	1	1	3	
Robinson: Dr. G. B. Fridell.	1	3	1	5	
Scott City (near): Scott County State Park	1	7	3	11	49
Louisiana: New Orleans: Audubon Park . .	1	0	0	1	1
Maryland: Baltimore; Druid Hill Park . .	0	1	0	1	1
Massachusetts:					
Boston: Franklin Park Zoo.	1	2	0	3	
New Bedford: New Bedford Zoological Park	1	1	0	2	
Springfield: Forest Park	3	1	1	5	
Stoneham: Middlesex Fells Zoo.	0	1	0	1	
Worcester: Green Hill Park	4	1	0	5	16
Michigan:					
Detroit:					
Belle Isle Park.	3	5	1	9	
Detroit Zoological Park.	5	10	4	19	
Grand Rapids: John Ball Park	1	1	0	2	
Lansing: Potter Park Zoo	1	1	1	3	33
Minnesota:					
Duluth: Duluth Zoological Gardens. . .	1	1	1	3	
Hibbing: City Park	0	1	0	1	
Little Falls: City Park.	1	2	0	3	
Mankato: City Park	2	2	0	4	
Montevideo: J. Harley Smith Park . . .	1	2	0	3	
Redwood Falls: Alexander Ramsey State Park	1	4	2	7	
St. Paul:					
Como Park Zoo.	2	2	0	4	
Division of State Parks.	4	6	2	12	
Virginia: Department of Parks.	1	2	1	4	41
Mississippi: Jackson: Mississippi Game and Fish Commission.	2	2	2	6	6

Location and ownership	Males	Females	Calves	Total	State total
Missouri:					
Joplin: City Park	1	2	0	3	
Kansas City: Swope Park Zoological Gardens	1	3	0	4	
Kirkwood: Edward A. Lemp.	1	2	1	4	
St. Louis: St. Louis Zoo.	2	2	0	4	
Springfield: Springfield Zoo.	2	3	2	7	22
Montana:					
Bozeman: Rising Sun Ranches	1	7	10	18	
Crow Agency: Crow Indian Reservation	200	250	135	585	
Dillon: Frank A. Hazelbaker	4	12	1	17	
Kalispell: Ernest White	1	1	0	2	
Martinsdale: C. E. DuRand	4	9	3	16	
Moiese: National Bison Range.	152	204	2	358	
Richland: Walter M. Truax	8	26	8	42	
Wolf Creek: Ox Box Ranch.	2	3	1	6	1,044
Nebraska:					
Lincoln: Lincoln Municipal Zoo. . . .	8	15	2	25	
North Platte: State Experimental Farm	2	3	1	6	
Omaha: Riverview Park Zoo	5	5	1	11	
Scottsbluff: Wildcat Game Preserve. .	9	18	1	28	
Valentine: Fort Niobrara Game Preserve	42	72	29	143	213
Nevada: Reno: Reno Park	1	1	0	2	2
New Hampshire:					
Newport: Blue Mountain Forest Association	17	9	0	26	26
New Jersey:					
Grenloch: Louis Weber	3	1	0	4	
Trenton: Trenton Municipal Zoo. . . .	1	0	0	1	5
New York:					
Brooklyn: Prospect Park Zoo	1	1	0	2	
Buffalo: Buffalo Zoological Garden. .	1	2	0	3	
Chazy: Hearts Delight Farm.	2	9	3	14	
New York City:					
Central Park.	1	2	4	7	
New York Zoological Park.	2	1	0	3	
Rochester: City Park.	2	6	0	8	
Utica: City Park Zoo.	1	0	0	1	38
North Dakota:					
Fort Totten: Sullys Hill National Game Preserve	8	9	0	17	
Minot:					
Clarence H. Parker.	9	42	20	71	
Roosevelt Park Zoological Garden. .	2	2	1	5	93

Location and ownership	Males	Females	Calves	Total	State total
Ohio:					
Cincinnati: Cincinnati Zoological Garden	2	5	1	8	
Cleveland: Brookside Park Zoo.	2	2	0	4	
Columbus: Columbus Zoological Park . .	2	2	1	5	
Toledo: Toledo Zoological Park	1	3	1	5	22
Oklahoma:					
Ardmore: C. B. Goddard	5	6	3	14	
Arnett: George Davison	2	30	10	42	
Bartlesville, Frank Phillips	15	48	12	75	
Cache: Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge	140	184	96	420	
Craterville: Craterville Park.	1	0	0	1	
Marietta: J. W. Dixon.	1	4	1	6	
Miami: Avery L. Wilbur	1	7	0	8	
Oklahoma City:					
Lincoln Park	2	3	2	7	
R. W. Robberson.	1	2	0	3	
Pawnee: G. W. Lile, "Pawnee Bill". . .	3	28	11	42	
Sulphur: Platt National Park	8	8	0	16	
Tulsa: Tulsa Zoological Garden	1	0	0	1	
Wewoka: Harry Sipe	1	3	0	4	639
Oregon:					
Merrill: C. V. Barton.	2	3	1	6	
Portland: Washington Park.	4	4	0	8	
Satuway: H. L. Priday.	1	2	0	3	17
Pennsylvania:					
Allentown: Trexler Park.	25	40	17	82	
Erie: Glenwood Park Zoological Garden	1	1	0	2	
Harrisburg: Harrisburg Zoo	1	1	1	3	
Hershey: Hershey Zoo	2	4	0	6	
Philadelphia: Philadelphia Zoological Garden	1	0	0	1	
Pittsburgh: Highland Park Zoo.	1	3	0	4	98
Rhode Island: Providence: Roger Williams Park Zoological Gardens.	1	2	1	4	4
South Dakota:					
Agar: E. D. Sutton	10	35	5	50	
Hermosa: State Game Preserve	74	230	85	389	
Hot Springs: Wind Cave National Park .	95	143	50	288	
Rushville: Pine Ridge Indian Agency. .	25	128	75	228	955
Tennessee: Memphis: Overton Park Zoo . .	3	2	0	5	5

Location and ownership	Males	Females	Calves	Total	State total
Texas:					
Amarillo: Mrs. Mattie Hedgecoke. . .	5	32	16	53	
Brownwood: State Park.	1	4	0	5	
El Paso: El Paso Municipal Zoo . . .	1	2	0	3	
Fort Worth: City Zoo	1	0	0	1	
Hereford: Rosannah Hereford Ranch. .	1	2	0	3	
Houston: Houston Zoological Garden .	1	1	0	2	
Kent: Reynolds Cattle Company. . . .	6	14	5	25	
Odessa: Glenn Allen.	3	2	2	7	
Waco: B. E. Farrell.	1	0	0	1	100
Utah: Salt Lake City: Salt Lake City Zoological Gardens	1	1	0	2	2
Vermont: Woodstock: Pearson Brothers .	1	2	0	3	3
Washington:					
Seattle: Woodland Park Zoo	2	0	0	2	
Wenatchee: O. D. Gibson.	12	27	0	39	41
West Virginia: Wheeling: Clem E. Peters	2	3	0	5	5
Wisconsin:					
Chippewa Falls: Irvine Park Zoo. . .	2	2	0	4	
Madison: Vilas Park Zoo.	1	3	2	6	
Milwaukee: Washington Park Zoo . . .	2	5	3	10	
Racine: Racine Zoological Park . . .	2	2	0	4	24
Wyoming:					
Careyhurst: J. M. Carey Bros., Inc..	3	12	4	19	
Cora: Dr. E. S. Lauzer	2	0	0	2	
Douglas: William Dorr.	1	5	0	6	
Gillette: R. B. Marquise	7	14	8	29	
Sheridan: Pioneer Park	2	2	0	4	
Thermopolis: Hot Springs State Park.	3	9	0	12	
Yellowstone: Yellowstone National Park	357	348	145	850	922
Grand total	1,564	2,562	903	5,029	5,029
Total for the United States . . .	1,509	2,452	868	4,829	
Total for Alaska.	55	110	35	200	

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